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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 ** NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1986

EDITED BY: ROD GOWEN/DICK WAGNER
CHAIRMAN: SID WYNCOOP
V/CHAIRMAN: DICK WAGNER
TREASURER: ROD GOWEN
PR OFFICER: BOB EVANS
LIBRARIAN: ROD GOWEN

NEXT MEETING

The FEBRUARY meeting will be:

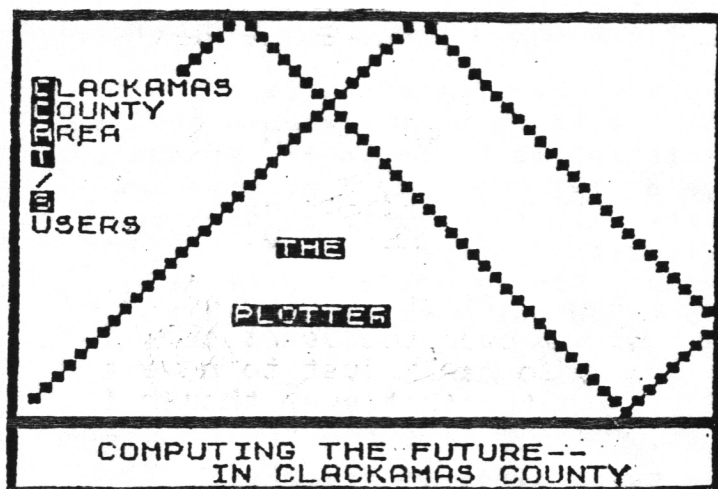
on: FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1986
at: 7:30 P. M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S&L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CTR

WHAT YOU WILL

FIND IN THIS

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Sid Wyncoop

Well, the election is done and this is your new chairman speaking. I'm not very sure what kind of a mess I've gotten myself into this time Ollie. Thank you for your voice of confidence. I only hope to live up to your expectations.

Speaking of expectations, what are yours? Do you want an active group? A healthy, informative newsletter? Good friends? Or just a night out of the house? You can have them all if you take an active part in your Computer User Group.

I go home from every meeting with at least one more piece of information about or insight into our computers. You don't have to wonder about what you missed if you attend meetings.

How about sending an article to our new editor, Dick Wagner? He can't put together an eight page newsletter by himself. Send him your programs, someone else's programs (give proper credits) or some interesting tidbit you have discovered or read about.

Come to the meetings. Second Friday every month, 7:30 PM, at the Far West Bank Bldg, Oregon City Shopping Center. See ya there!

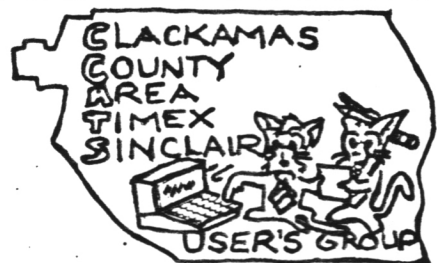
FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK

For the start of the new year I am fortunate to have an adequate amount of material to print in the February issue of THE PLOTTER. I do hope new writers will come forth to give our publication a broad range of material. Please don't forget that we have dedicated users of ZX 81, 1000, and 1500 computers- not everyone has invested in a 2068 or a QL yet.

- A few guide lines on preparing printed material, if followed, will ease my task:
1. Dark copy on clean paper is essential for clear printing.
 2. 2040 printers are fine but use Radio Shack paper.
 3. Set large printers for printing 36 columns, 60 rows maximum, top to end of page.
 4. Headings should be expanded double width CAP characters.
 5. Set left margin for a minimum of 1/4 inch. I use a margin of 3 characters.
 6. Material must get to me by the 15th of a month to be considered for printing in the coming issue. For mailing use the address on the back page.
 7. PLEASE check your copy for typo and spelling. So EASY to correct while in the computer memory.
 8. The less I have to re-do the better I like it. My time is limited too. I am adverse to retyping long listing.

We need your experience with large printers, now that there are more of them out there. More on this subject later.

#####



#####

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN OUR JANUARY ISSUE AND WE FAILED TO INCLUDE CREDIT TO THE NEWSLETTER FROM WHICH WE REPRINTED IT! WE NOW RUN IT AGAIN, WITH PROPER CREDIT AS WELL AS PROPER SPELLING OF THE AUTHORS' NAME. WE ALSO WANT TO CLARIFY THAT IT IS FOR THE QL, NOT THE 2068. WE APOLOGISE.

C PROGRAM FOR SINCLAIR QL
AND IBM PC

by:COLIN GOLDBERG
(Reprinted from the newsletter of
THE PC USERS GROUP of NEW YORK)

Sets are a feature provided in the Pascal language but absent in C. The following routines allow a calling program to set or clear the nth "element" in a "set" (which is actually a bit vector in which each bit is either on or off, and represents the membership or otherwise of the element).

Thus when the nth bit is off, the nth element is not a member or otherwise of the set (bit vector), and when the nth bit is on, the nth element is a member of the set.

The following example first defines a "character" array (used for the bit map that is to hold the "set"), and passes the address of that array to the routines which set and clear the bit associated with "element" of the array. Note that the first (leftmost) bit in the array is reserved for element zero, as a zero-relative scheme is used.

```
main()

char bitmap 100 ; /defines the area
                  to be used/
bitset(bitmap,13); /sets the bit for
                  element 13/
bitclear(bitmap,5); /clears the bit
                  for element 5/

bitset(bitmap,element)
char *bitmap
int element;

int bit_offset,
    byte_offset

byte_offset = element >> 3;
bit_offset = element - (byte_offset
                        * 8) + 1;
```

HARDWARE

ESC Key(cont'd from Dec.)

By Dick Wagner

A system for an ESCAPE (ESC) key for our 2068 computers was reprinted from the July/Aug issue of SINC-LINC, Toronto Timex-Sinclair Users Club (Canada), authored by member Larry Crawford, London T/5 Club.

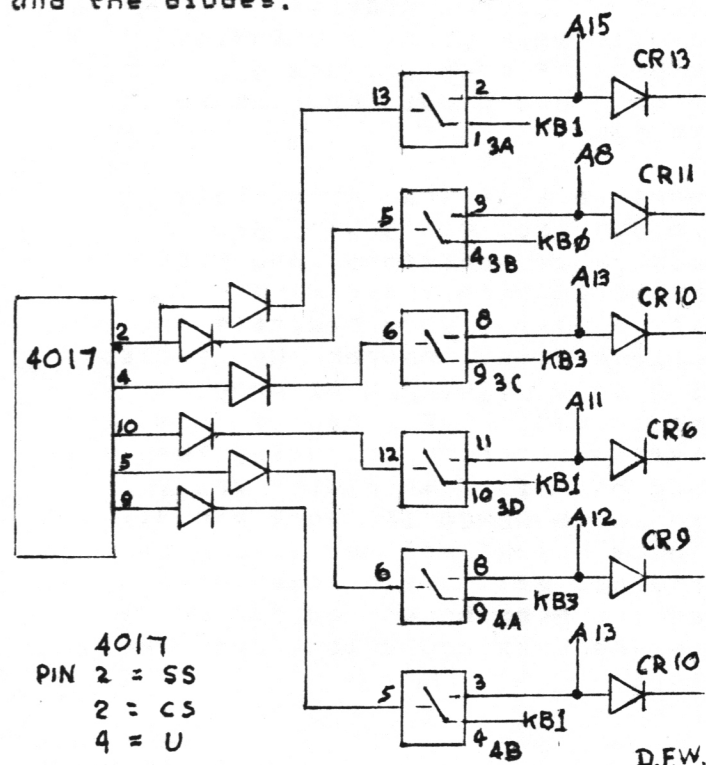
ESC is a special key on many computers. It is used to address certain operating codes to a large printer. These control or operating codes usually are given in the printer manuals. For lack of this key, we can substitute CH5\$ 27; and then the desired code number(s). A single key stroke saves 5 strokes.

There exists a standard USA ASCII ISO code table that defines in HEX and binary, certain codes in the numerical range 0-31 and 127d. These are used for printer control. Our computers use some of these same numbers for computer control but starting with CH5\$ 27; tells the inter it is a printer code. Some printers have a CONTROL key used in conjunction with a letter that accesses these codes from 0-27d.

Essentially, the explanation in the NOV. issue gives the essence for producing, in proper order, the key strokes that produce CH5\$ 27; or ESC;. The ";" is a separator that says there is something following. The pin outputs of 4017 must be in the order show. The following schematic explains how the outputs connect to the 2068 circuit board.

The 4066 (4016) IC is a set of 4 solid state switches. The outputs of 4017 toggle these switches (6) to produce the same results as pressing the associated keyboard keys. The KB lines are from IC U3 (Computer) and can be accessed at the keyboard ribbon connector as noted. The A lines are from the keyboard and can be accessed at the ribbon connector at the key-board side of the computer diodes. The schematic shows the outputs of the 2 4066 IC's

connecting at the keyboard A lines and the diodes.



SECRETARY'S SECRETS

(Abridged)

The first meeting of 1986 was called to order at 7:45 PM by acting chairman Dick Wagner. Guests were introduced: Al Miller and Ken Lute (new member). The Treasurer's report was given, indicating membership is now about 40. The Secretary's report was OKed as printed in THE PLOTTER.

New business included settling the Vice Chairman tie vote by a coin toss. Dick Wagner won. It was voted that Rod Gowan was to be reimbursed \$25.00 for out of pocket expenses while he was Editor. Members were informed that there will be a new column in the newsletter called QL Corner, edited by Vince Lyon.

Question and answer session covered problems surfacing with the Romswitch, announcement of a new Emulator by Zebra, problems associated with using the Radio Shack DMP-105 printer, and a question about a data program for the TS 1000.

Comments were offered by members Dennis Jurries, Rod Gowan, Sid Wyncoop, Jack Armstrong, and Dick Wagner concerning their displays. Dennis is making good progress on his welded joint program. He is also working on a LIGHT PEN ml program. Rod had a wealth of products that he is distributor for, including the QL. Sid had his 3 inch disk drive working with AERCO IF. Jack proudly displayed his RS printer, and Dick had his Olivetti Jet printer with Oliger IF. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 so members could look over the displays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed:

I have just finished typing and correcting "POOJAN" and giving it to the library. I find it a most entertaining game. It consists of Wolves, Pigs and a Man in a cage with a bow and arrow.

The wolves (an endless number of them) are after the pigs (ten of them). The man in the cage is able to shoot down the wolves and if he shoots down enough you are able to replace the lost pigs. But the wolves also go after the man in the cage and you only have two of them and when they are gone the game is over.

The score is kept for you and you are able to enter the players names at the end of each round. The farther you get into the game the more wolves you have to shoot down each time until the number of wolves becomes insurmountable at the higher levels of play.

The more ability you have in shooting down the balloons the wolves use the higher score you can attain.

I found it an entertaining game that did not require a lot of agility on the keyboard. You use only three keys. A for UP, Z for DN and SPACE BAR for SHOOT.

Bob Evans

PLOT WITH TAB?

```
10 REM---TABGRAPH---
20 REM Dick Wagner
30 FOR A = 0 TO 9.5 STEP .2
40 LET Y = COS( 2*A ) + SIN ( A )
50 LPRINT TAB ( 10 * Y + 20 ); ". "
60 NEXT A
70 REM 1000 - 2060 COMPUTERS
80 REM 2040 OR LARGE PRINTERS
```

BITS & BYTES

This is one column that a person has very little trouble filling these days! It seems as though there are at least a couple of new items in the news each and every week. If you are like me, you have trouble keeping up with all the news! I look around so much and so fast I get dizzy! Here are just a few of the items that I came across in the last 4 weeks or so:

SINCLAIR-has announced its new line of computers to be released in the U.K. later this year. The PANDORA, a 128K computer (possibly the Spectrum 128 that we've been hearing about?), and the new ENIGMA, reportedly having 1 MEGABYTE of built in RAM!! It also sports 2-3.5" DD, a color monitor, a printer, all four of the current PSION packages built in on ROM and other bundled software. All that for a price to be somewhere in the range of \$500-\$1000!! Sir Clive must be going after the big boys!

T-S HORIZONS-#16 is now in the club library, as reported in the last issue, and is disappointing in a few ways. At least in my opinion. I can empathize with the effort to cut the cost of publishing the magazine, but if the quality of the print and paper gets much worse, I think that they will lose some support.

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-says that they are currently working on several new software and hardware projects. One of the software items in the works is a new telecommunications package to be used with the 2050 modem. It seems that the writers of MTERM II wanted too much for the rights the that program. There is new software for the OS-64 coming out. The GREET-ING CARD DESIGNER that they released a couple weeks before Christmas is one program or I should say package that is not too well known yet, but, it should be noted that it includes a fantastic Graphics Design Utility that allows you to design your own pictures for the cards you want to print or for other uses.

(NOTE: Most Zebra products can be purchased through our local dealer, RMG ENTERPRISES--see ad on Page 8)

LARKEN ELECTRONICS-in Canada was contacted by ROD GOWEN and is going to build a prototype of his disk I/F for us to assess. It sounds like a good value at only \$95 plus shipping for an interface that supports one double-sided double-density drive and formats up to 160K per side. It used LDOS, an operating system that MERRY KENNY wrote himself. The system is the only one that is fully compatible with any 2068, with or without a Spectrum chip of any sort. We will keep you posted as to the outcome of the tryout.

TIME DESIGNS MAGAZINE-announced at our last meeting that they had successfully finalized a deal with TIMEX that gives them exclusive rights to the 2068 TECH MANUAL. TIM WOODS, Editor of TDM, said that the new manual would include quite a bit of info that was omitted from the first version. It will be bound very much like your 2068 User Guide but in an 8 1/2 x 11" format. It will be typeset and should therefore be a very nice publication. The best I saved for last, THE PRICE: \$25 PP!

EXECUTIVE WORKSHOP-has been working hard on a new line of software for the QL. Actually, VINCE LYON has been rewriting most of his 2068 software for the QL. He has made a deal with RMG ENTERPRISES to be the exclusive distributor of his line. There will be several titles avail-

able soon. EXECUTIVE QLUe and EXECUTIVE BOP (BUSINESS OWNERS PACKAGE) are both ready now. ACCOUNTS REC/PAY and INCOME STATEMENT should be ready soon.

Thats all the room I have for this time! See you all next month.

THE QL CORNER

by:VINCE LYON

Since this is a new column, I would like to start off in a new way. I would like to tell you about the feelings I had in the pit of my stomach when I began playing with my QL for the very first time. The QL is so radically different from the 2068 and TS1000, I was sure that old Sir Clive was trying to give me ulcers, he already knew he had given me headaches.

After unpacking the box, I was impressed. The QL was a neat looking unit with a keyboard that I thought was heaven (only four years before I thought that the keyboard on my ZX81 kit was acceptable only for an hour or two). However, the very next things I noticed were the things that were NOT THERE. no more single keystroke entry. No more simple to use user defined graphics. And also, thank God, no more five minute waits for a simple program to load (oh well, two out of four ain't bad).

Then I started spending the major portion of my life playing with this new toy. I was staying awake until 3 AM or later cussin', swearin' and what not. And Loving every minute of it. I was spending so much time at the keyboard that all my regular work fell behind, my wife accused me of having a new lover, and dinner was a snack I ate just before I passed out.

I spent time exploring superBasic, hooking up monitors, modems, printers, testing the packaged software, writing new programs, pushing the microdrives to their limit, and playing with all those new commands that Clive put in just for me.

In all those red-eyed hours there is only one truly important lesson that I learned: THE QL LACKS NOTHING!! That's what this small column is all about. Never mind the lack of single keystroke entry - the 2068 now seems more difficult when I try to find my way around the keyboard (It's amazing how often the screen has messages like "PRINT rint" displayed). Never mind the supposed lack of user defined graphics - those are available in a great toolkit and from a ZX Computing Program I recently modified.

All in all, I agreed to write this column because I believe that, in it's price range (and with those that cost several times it's price), the QL is the most versatile and delightful computer on today's market.

In future columns, I will be delving into SUPERBASIC and it's many new, fantastic commands, looking at available software and the applications for it, explaining some basic Machine Language, playing with graphics and other concepts.

Hope you can join me here.

COMMENTS ON COMPUSEVERVE

Rod Gowen
CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for COMPUSEVERVE INFORMATION SERVICE. The definition is for those of you not familiar with the service.

This month I am going to print an item that appeared on the SIG after a few people announced their intentions to quit the service. I think that Mr. Casby says a lot that needs to be said and I hope that he does not mind my reprinting his letter here. I am going to send him a copy of this newsletter. I hope that you enjoy his views and I will be back next month.

#: 31299 s4/Timex/Sinclair
30-Nov-85 13:40:53
sb: Stick Around
fm: Kurt Casby 72676,2544
to: All Timexers

Fellow Timexers!

I have noticed lately some people dropping off CIS, or, like Chris, indicating that their user group is in trouble. I cannot understand this!

Timex users have never had it so good! I stay on Compuserve because I cannot afford to be calling BBS systems all over the country all the time! Here on CIS, we have a group of users from all over the country! Yet for most of us, it is a local call, and a low hourly charge (compared to long distance rates!). When I found this group (it was in a different place then!) I was so relieved to learn that I was not the only one in the world who respected the lowly TS line of computers. I had just lost my subscription to Sync, and was afraid to send money to the 'new' magazines that started to appear! Here, at last, was a source of information on Timex Computers that I could access whenever I wished! Asking and answering questions. I was, and am very happy with this SIG!

I wish I had a user's group, in trouble or not! we used to have a group, but it fell apart when Timex dropped out. I do have several friends with TS2068, or TS1000 Computers, and I guess you could call us a group. But I would pay for a 'real' user's group in my area!

How, Chris, can your group be in trouble now, when things are just picking up in the Timex world? In the last several months I have seen not one, but three (that I know of) very viable disk systems become available. I have seen a cartridge which allows the use of the 64 column mode! I have seen dealers acting like they still care about us Timexers! I have seen reports of magazines catering the TS line surviving and growing! In short, I have seen the best times for us since Timex pulled out!

I came close to 'pulling out' also! I was sorely tempted by a lady named Amiga. I had decided not to put any more money in this system. But then the disk came out! I mean honest to God came out! Not promises but in stock! Not vaporware, but hardware! After some lengthy soul

searching, I decided that with the addition of a disk, there was nothing I needed to do that the TS2068 wouldn't do! The only thing some of the 'big guns' can do that I can't do is "multi-tasking". While that would be nice, I can live without it.

Perhaps some of those who are considering jumping ship do not really know what they have. I have a Commodore 64 computer, my kids use it and I use the printer on it by sending information the the 64 via modem. Unless you have used both systems a lot you cannot beleive how superior, no, make that SUPERIOR the TS2068 is! I have also used Apples and Ataris extensively, and occasionally an IBM. I repeat, until you use these others, you can't appreciate the Timex!

I did not mean for this to become so lengthy, but I wanted to get this off my chest. I also wanted to ask each of you to not leave CIS. I consider this SIG my user's group and I need you! We need each other!

Stick around, OK?! Best regards,
Kurt Casby 72676,2544

MENU FOR WAFERS Jack Armstrong

```

9966>REM menu1 Charlie Day TSUG
      revised by Jack Armstrong
9967 BORDER 5: PAPER 6: INK 2: C
LS : RESTORE
9968 PRINT "TAB 9; BRIGHT 1);" ME
NU LOADER "
9969 PRINT "If you want to make
a new menu, Press ""1""."
9970 PRINT "Press any other num
ber to print this menu.": PAUSE
0: IF INKEY#="1" THEN CLS : LIST
9981: STOP
9971 CLS : FOR k=1 TO 18: LET x=
(16 AND k>12): READ a$: PRINT AT
(K-1 AND k<13)+(k-13 AND k>=13)
,X;(" " AND k<10);k;"-";a$;(" by
tes" AND k=2): BEEP .04,k-10: NE
XT k: RESTORE
9972 PRINT INK 0;AT 21,0);" PUT W
AFER IN A&U MICRODRIVE #1 ": INP
UT INK 1; BRIGHT 1; FLASH 1;" En
ter Choice ";B#
9973 POKE 24201,1: REM this POKE
turns on your DRIVE #1-If
you are going to load from
DRIVE #0 then change the 1
to a "0"
9974 DATA "tw","tw","85TAX","UDG
","MODYJMP","hdln","scale","wl",
"race","dmln","Uboat","find","a
lien","demols","acduc","Uboat","
lag","flag"
9975 FOR k=1 TO VAL B#
9976 READ a$: IF a#="flag" THEN
STOP
9977 NEXT k
9978 PAUSE 60: CLS : PRINT INK 1
; PAPER 6; FLASH 1;AT 8,12-(LEN
a$/2);"LOADING:";a$

```

```

9979 LOAD "@"+A$: REM you could
have "DELETE 9966," here to
purge this program from
memory while your program
is running.
9980 STOP
9981 REM change the DATA to suit
your needs. See LINE 9974.
9982 REM make sure your DATA
list is long enough-you do
not want the size of the
list or, indeed, the pro-
gram itself to enlarge as
you add to it or you are in
peril of the menu overwrit-
ing the next program on
the wafer.
9983 REM that assumes you are
LOADing from DRIVE 0. NOTE:
this program will LOAD from
DRIVE 1-Change the POKE if
you're using the same wafer
that this program is on.
9984 REM you could DIM a large
variable to give the menu
enough size to avoid this,
but, you must re- DIM to
bring the size down each
time you add to the list-
probably be better to make
your list long at the start
by using dummy DATA.
9985 REM if you use this program
as the 1st on your wafer,
remember to change your #'s
to suit-both the loops and
the SAVE routine as well as
the DATA list.
9986 REM you can delete parts of
these REMs to take up this
slack as you increase the
size of your list.
9987 POKE 24201,0: SAVE "@1,menu
1" LINE 10
9988 FOR k=-5 TO 7: BEEP .04,k:
NEXT k
9989 VERIFY "@menu1"
9990 FOR k=-5 TO 7: BEEP .04,k:
NEXT k

```

THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION!

From: Frank Schmuck, 75126,3710
To: Timex Group

I have solved all the problems I was having with my TS2020. The solution is cheap and can be found in almost any hardware store. Now, I'm not a physicist so I can't explain how it works, but here goes the procedure. You go down to the local hardware store and buy a 5 LB sledge hammer. You suspend the sledge approx 6 FT above the TS 2020 and then allow the gravitational field of the earth solve your problems. Worked just fine for me!

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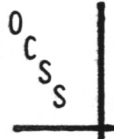
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